A RELATION Of the ENGAGEMENT OF His Majesty's Fleet With the ENEMIES,

On the 11th of *August*, 1673.

As it has been Represented by Letters from the several SQUADRONS.

Published by Authority.

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The Relation from the
Red Squadron.

ON the Tenth of *August*, in the Morning, his Highness Prince *Rupert*, lying with His Majesties Fleet seven Leagues from the *Texel*, bearing E. and by S. of them, dispatched away the *Papenburgh*, a Dutch *East-India* Prize, under the care of Sir *Charles Littleton*, which had fallen that Morning casually into their hands; about which time the Fleet Weighed, having the Wind at N. E. a gentle Gale, his Highness being Advertised by his Scouts, That the Enemies Fleet, which had lain at Ankor four Leagues from *Camperdown*, and seven Leagues S.S. E. from ours, were getting under sayl; which obliged him to stand S. E. to get the Wind of them; about Two in the afternoon, the Enemies Fleet was seen by ours, standing Northwards: of whom his Highness having got the Wind, about four in the afternoon stretched near the Headmost of them: then the Enemy Tacked, when their Van was a Breast on us, and made all the sayl they possibly could. The Prince kept such a sayl, as our whole Fleet might accompany them; but the Day being near

ſpent, his Highneſs thought it not fit to Engage them then, but kept under ſayl all night. On the Eleventh in the Morning at breaking of day, the Enemies Fleet was ſeen (being Ninety odd ſayl of Men of War) within two Leagues of ours, bearing from the E. and by S. to the S. S. E. of us, the Wind at E. and by S. the *Texel* bore E. N. E. near five Leagues diſtance; between four and five the Fleet Tacked, and ſtood to the Northwards till eight, then they Tacked again and ſtood to the Southward, the Enemy ſtill obſerving our Motion, and edging towards us, until half an hour after eight, when they bore right down upon us, *Van Trump* upon the Blew ſquadron in the Rear, *de Ruyter* with the main body upon the Red, and *Banckert* with the reſt upon the White; Between Nine and Ten of the clock, there fell a great ſhower of Rain, and very thick weather, with which the wind ſhuck from the E. and by *S.* to the S. *W.* At eleven of the clock the weather cleared up, when we perceived the white ſquadron had Tacked, and weathered both Fleets; The enemy had a great ſquadron to weather of the Prince's and Sir *John Harman*'s Diviſions, *de Ruyter* was right in the Princes wake, and preſſed him very hard, two of their Vice-Admirals, and one of their Rear-Admirals, were within little more then Cannon ſhot to Leeward of him; Sir *John Chicheley*'s Diviſion was to Leeward of him, and the Blew ſquadron warmly engaged with *Van Trump* to Leeward of all: the Prince kept cloſe upon a Wind till twelve at noon, and then his Highneſs bore towards Sir *John Chicheley* firſt, and afterwards to the Blew ſquadron, where he found Sir *Edward Sprague*'s ſhip, the *Royal Prince*, towing off without any of his Maſts ſtanding, but defended from the enemy, by the Earl of *Oſſory* in the St. *Michael*, and ſome other ſhips of the ſame ſquadron. At ſix in the evening his Highneſs engaged ſmartly again, till eight at night, when he got his Larboard Tacks on board, and ſtood *N. N. W.* with the wind at S W. at which time the enemy Tacked, and ſtood to their own Coaſt. We have ſeveral of our Men of War diſabled, but not one loſt; the *Henrietta* Yacht

which

which attended the Earl of *Offory*, was ſunk by his ſide, but he ſaved the Captain and all the Men. Sir *Edward Spragg* Admiral of the Blew ſquadron, changing his ſhip, was unfortunately Drowned, his Boat being ſunk under him by a ſhot from the enemy, Captain *le Neve* was alſo ſlain; Sir *John Kempthorn*, Vice-Admiral of the Blew, Captain *Courtney*, Captain *Howard*, Sir *William Reeves*, and Sir *William Jennings* were wounded Captain *Stockman*, and Captain *Merryweather* of the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Regiment, and Mr. *May*, a Volunteer, were alſo ſlain, which were all the Hurt and Wounded of note we yet hear of. We cannot certainly tell what the enemies loſs was, but two of their Great ſhips of 70 and 60 Guns were both loſt in our ſight, the one ſunk by Sir *John Kempthorn*, the latter burnt by Captain *Waſhbourn*: It is likewiſe confidently ſaid, that four or five more were deſtroyed, and ſeveral others were ſeen to go off much diſabled. On the 12 our Fleet was refitting, and on the 13 in the morning, when this account came away from them, they were under ſayl to look after the enemy, who were gotten out of ſight the night before, ſtanding as is ſuppoſed, towards their own Coaſt.

The RELATION *from the White* SQUADRON.

THE wind being at *S. E.* and favourable to the enemies, who had drawn themſelves up towards their own coaſts, they diſpoſed their ſquadrons to come upon each of ours, which they expected all at a time; *Trump* with his ſquadron having attacked the Blew, *de Ruyter* and his Vice-Admiral the *Red*, and *Bankert* the *White*, who had the Van, and the Wind at *E.* endeavouring to weather the enemies, to which end the Marquis *de Martel*, Rere-Admiral of the ſaid ſquadron, with his ſhip called the *Royal Tereſe*, Tacked upon the enemy, but not being able

able to get the wind, he remained very close to them, constantly firing; some time after, the Chevalier *Fourville*, Commander of the *Sanspareil*, being the second ship of the Van, Tacked also upon the enemy, and was followed by the Sieurs *Pauvettier* and *Louis Gabaret*, commanding the *Precieux* and *Aquillon*, but they could not yet gain the wind.

The Count *d' Estrees*, Vice-Admiral of *France*, seeing that the Rear-Admirals Division, who had the Van, could gain nothing upon the enemy, resolves to bear through them, in order to getting the weather-gage, and going to the Prince's assistance; and in effect he broke through the enemies line, between 11. and 12 at noon, and weathered all their ships except *Bankert*, who passed to windward of him within Pistol-shot, and the rest to Leeward within the same distance; the said *Bankert's* Fire-ships did all they could to burn the Comte *d' Estree's* ship, called *La Reine*, and one of their Fire-ships burnt out under his Bolt-sprit, and another he sunk with his shot, and after having stood the enemies Fire on both sides, and he himself fired without intermission, both his great and small shot, having lost 30 men, and his ship much torn, he got the Wind, whilst the Sieurs *de Breuilly*, *de Gabaret*, and several other Captains, did all they could to come up to such of the enemies ships as were a head of them; but they would not stay for them; Admiral *Bankert* with his Division, bore upon the Sieurs *d' Estival*, Chevalier *Dailly*, and *de Sepville*, Commanders of the *Invincible*, the Fire, and the *Amable*; the first stayed for *Bankert*, who durst not come near him, and after having shown all the marks of courage and resolution, was killed by a Great shot during this dispute; after which, the *Le hute* Rallied, and pursued the enemy before the Wind, and with all their sails, till half an hour past seven in the evening, when we found fifty of the enemies ships who had Rallied, and who durst not bear upon the Princes squadron, because we had the Wind of them, expecting onely the Prince's Orders to do whatever his Highness should think fit. The *Comte d' Estrees* thinking he ought to keep the advantage

of the Wind, to renew the Fight the next day, it being then already too late to engage afresh, without expreſs Orders from his Highneſs.

The RELATION *from the* *Blew* SQUADRON.

ON Munday the eleventh of *Auguſt* we engaged the enemy, the Wind at S. E. near the *Texel*, the *Dutch* having the Weather-gage, both Fleets pointed into the Shore. About ſeven in the morning, Prince *Rupert* Tacked, being near Land, ſo gave the Wind as large as they could wiſh, to the *Dutch*; the *Blew* ſquadron having the Rear, the *Red* the middle, and the *White* the Van; *Trump* and his Diviſion taking the *Blew*, *de Ruyter* the *Red*, and *Bankert* the *White* ſquadron; with us Sir *John Kempthorn* began the Battle, half an hour paſt ſeven in the morning, awhile after *Tromp* and Sir *Edward Spragg* engaged; Sir *Edward Spragg* lay by for *Tromp*, and ſo did moſt of his Diviſion, and fought at this rate three hours; Prince *Rupert* and the *White*, as their adverſaries being ſeparated from us, we heard not of them till four in the afternoon, when they came very opportunely to our aſſiſtance; Sir *Edward Spragg* lay battering againſt eight or nine of the *Dutch* a long time, and moſt of his Diviſion being ſo far Leeward they could not help him; for Sir *John Kempthorn* being preſt, it preſt us all out of our ſtation much to the Lee; this was about twelve of the clock, when we perceived Sir *Edward Spragg* to put before the Wind, which made us conjecture him either dead or much damaged; I went aboard Sir *Edward Spragg* to ſee how affairs ſtood, and found his ſhip extreamly diſabled, and as we ſet our Boat from his ſhip, down fell his main Maſt within a yard of our Boat; We ſaved ſome men and came up to the ſhips ſide again to take [illegible] ſwimmers, when the miſſen Maſt fell down near our Boat;

after this, Sir *Edward Spragg* came on board the St. *George*, where he put up his Flag, and lay by the disabled *Royal Prince* to defend her, where was a hot Fight; Sir *John Kempthorn* and his Division Tacked upon the enemy, who was very eager upon the *Prince*, either to take or burn her, but the *Blew* squadron by this time came so about her, that the enemy found it too hot for them, though they plyed her still hard. More particulars I have not time to write, but that very unfortunately that day at two of the clock the St *George* was so disabled too, that Sir *Edward Spragg* took Boat to go on board the *Royal Charles*, and had not rowed ten Boats lengths, but a Bullet came through the St. *George* and broke his Boat; they made back again as fast as they could on board, but before they came within throw of the Ropes, the Boat sunk, and Sir *Edward Spragg* was drowned; being taken up dead, his head and shoulders above water, having taken so dead hold of the Boat, they could hardly disingage him from it. *Mr. Littleton*, *Mr. Smith* and his Page were drowned with him; the St. *George*'s Boat being next, took up his body, and his Lieutenant half dead; for the preserving of his ship the *Royal Prince*, there continued still a brisk Fight, and about four in the afternoon, his Highness bore in, and the *Dutch*, which favoured the getting off of that ship, being towed by two or three others; The *Dutch* were still unwilling to leave her, and so the Fight continued till near eight at night. We are preparing for another bout, God continue to give us still good success. Excuse this imperfect Narrative, being writ in a hurry.

FINIS.